

TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE GYNÆCOLOGY. By Wilfred Shaw, M.A. (Cantab.), M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. ix + 444; figs. 382. 100s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1954.

THIS book is a great memorial to an expert teacher and operator. It was produced in response to a demand from many British gynaecologists and postgraduates, and covers a wide field, including certain gastro-intestinal operations with which the practising gynaecologist might be faced unexpectedly.

The illustration and the manner of production are such as one has come to expect from the publishers, and it is a book which should be in every gynaecologist's library.

There is indeed little one can criticise and everything to praise, especially when one realises the circumstances in which it was produced.

C. H. G. M.

GUIDE TO THE CLASSIFICATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTINOMYCETES AND THEIR ANTIBIOTICS. By Selman A. Waksman and Hubert T. Lechevalier. (Pp. x + 246. 38s. 6d.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1953.

THIS important monograph, compiled by the discoverer of streptomycin, Dr. S. A. Waksman, contains a useful summary of the classification of actinomycetes, with a description of species of streptomyces, micromonospora, nocardia and actinomyces (*A. bovis*, *A. israeli*). In addition, it contains a valuable summary of the numerous antibiotic substances which have so far been isolated from this group; their physical and chemical properties, as well as their toxicity, etc. The volume should be found invaluable as a work of reference, and should be available in all medical libraries.

N. C. G.

REFRESHER COURSE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. Second collection of articles from the *British Medical Journal*. (Pp. 570; 25s.) London: British Medical Association, 1954.

THIS second collection of articles which have appeared in the *British Medical Journal* must be considered in relation to its purpose, to keep the busy general practitioner up to date. It is essential, therefore, that the articles be of a practical nature. They may well be of value also to the specialist, in keeping him abreast of developments outside his own speciality. The contributions range widely over the whole field of general practice and, on the whole, supply the kind of information that the general practitioner should be given. An article on the basic principles of atomic structure by Sir James Walton and another on leprosy are the only two which have no day-to-day bearing on general practice. Most of us will remember some of these articles which we found interesting and helpful when they appeared. They will often have been mislaid and half-forgotten. They are now available, revised to be completely up to date, in a volume well produced and of reasonable price. The illustrations are few and of no great merit.

Confronted with sixty articles, it is hard to comment without merely cataloguing. A few of the titles may be mentioned to show the range of subject—obesity; minor ailments of the feet; the nervous child; infertility; the watering eye and the acute mental case. An article on acute bronchitis may be recommended. Its clear presentation has been of considerable value to the reviewer. One section deals with expectorants in a realistic way which is salutary for most of us. It is pleasant to find an article from our own school, that on "The Painful Shoulder," by Mr. R. J. W. Withers. Here again the account of these not uncommon cases clarifies a rather difficult subject. A resolution to read one of these articles each day would undoubtedly benefit our knowledge and practice of medicine. It is a pity so few of us keep up our good resolutions.

J. C. C. C.